ordering the local authorities to make every effort to frustrate them.

The Japanese Minister, it may be remembered, submitted the Twenty-One Demands, acceptance of which would virtually have converted China into a Japanese Protectorate, to Yuan Shih-kai, under a strict injunction to maintain secrecy, in January, 1915. It was reported that when presenting them he intimated that if Yuan did not comply his Government might be unable to restrain the Chinese revolutionists who were conspiring against the President. The Twenty-One Demands, with the exception of Group V. (which contained the most obnoxious conditions) were imposed upon China by an Ultimatum, in May. Japan took advantage of the preoccupation of her Ally, Great Britain, with the War in Europe, and misled the British Government as to the nature and the number of her demands.

With Parliament out of the way, and the Japanese Demands disposed of, Yuan Shih-kai turned his thoughts from a Dictatorship to a Monarchy. Certain of his adherents organized appeals from the Provinces to him to ascend the Throne, and after a show of hesitation he agreed, and announced his intention of assuming the Imperial Crown early in 1916. It was soon apparent, however, that neither abroad nor in China was this move popular. Yuan was warned against proceeding with the project by the Japanese

Government.
Basing his stand, however, on the results of a faked referendum, he went ahead with his plans until, at the end of the year, the standard of revolt